

Hard Hat Use and Inspection

Hard hats are an important piece of personal protective equipment (PPE). Hard hats worn at Berkeley Lab must comply with the requirements of ANSI Z89.1 for impact protection and electrical performance.

PPE can only be effective if it is used properly and the wearer understands its limitations, care, and maintenance. OSHA 29 CFR 1910.132 requires that PPE be maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition. Defective or damaged equipment should never be used. To inspect PPE, employees should follow manufacturer's recommendations for specific inspection procedures.

Hard Hat Inspection - Bullard Hard Hats

Bullard 3000 hard hats are available at LBL Central Stores, located in B79. [Bullard User Information](#) provides detailed inspection procedures for all Bullard hard hats.

In summary, the shell of the hard hat should be inspected for dents, cracks, nicks, gouges, or any damage due to impact, penetration, or abrasions. Degradation of the shell material due to ultraviolet light damage, temperature extremes, or chemical damage may be apparent when the shell becomes stiff, brittle, faded, dull in color, or exhibits a chalky appearance. The shell should be replaced at the first sign of any of these conditions. The hard hat can be tested by compressing the shell inward from the sides about an inch, using both hands, and releasing the pressure without dropping the shell. The shell should quickly return to its original shape, exhibiting elasticity. If the shell does not exhibit elasticity similar to that of a new shell, it should be replaced immediately.

The suspension should be inspected for cracks, frayed or cut crown straps, torn headband or size adjustment slots, loss of pliability or other signs of wear.

Hard Hat Inspection – Other Manufacturers

For other manufacturers' hard hats, including Willson and MSA, those manufacturer's recommendations should be used.

Replacement Parts - Bullard Hard Hats

For Bullard hard hats, LBL Central Stores in B79 stocks replacement Bullard suspensions and brow pads for both 4-point and 6-point suspensions. A 4-point suspension should be used to replace a broken 4-point suspension, and a 6-point suspension should be used to replace a 6-point suspension. However, the ratchet 4-point suspension can substitute for the pin-type 4-point suspension, and a ratchet 6-point suspension can substitute for a pin-type 6-point suspension.

Replacement brow pads are also available. The Bullard “Sportek” terry-like brow pad can be used to replace the original vinyl brow pad. The Sportek fabric wicks moisture, cushions the wearer’s forehead, resists stains and odors, and can be removed for washing. The TT2 brow pad fits the 6-point suspension only. The TT3 brow pad fits only the 4-point suspension.

Replacement Parts - Other Manufacturers

Replacement parts should be the same parts provided by the manufacturer of the hard hat. Other manufacturer’s parts should not be substituted. This includes suspensions, brow pads, and other parts. For hard hats issued to Building Managers and Building Emergency Team members by the LBL Emergency Preparedness Program, replacement parts can be obtained by contacting Protective Services at PS@lbl.gov.

Accessories

Some hard hats are designed with universal mounting attachments for faceshields, earmuffs, or other accessories. These mounting attachments may be used to accept suitable accessories from a variety of manufacturers.

For additional information please contact Tony Luiz ext 7881.